

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

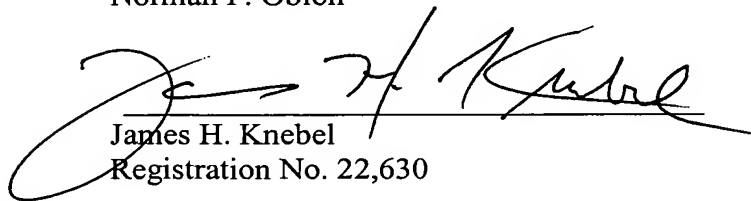
The Office is requiring restriction in the present application to the invention of Claims 1-9 and 13, drawn to methods for detecting the elements constituting a microorganism flora and a primer usable in the method, or Claims 10-12 and 14-16, drawn to genomic nucleic acids, DNA chips, primers, and bits. Applicants have decided to amend the claims so that an election of inventions and/or species is rendered moot. It is believed that the amendment herein overcome the objections raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Restriction Requirement.

More specifically, the invention is restricted in the amended claims to a method of detection without specifying any specific primer and/or genomic sequence. An essential feature of this method is that the flora is a bacterial flora and operon is an rpoBC operon.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



James H. Knebel
Registration No. 22,630

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)